

October 27, 2003

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Department of State

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife and I are very concerned by the Hague Proposed Regulations pertaining to accreditation of adoption agencies. We have adopted three children over the past thirteen years. We worked with a medium sized agency with a national network and most recently a small agency here in Connecticut, Thursday's Child.

The proposed accreditation, the added expense to the adoption process, precious time it will take from the small agency's staffs, and probable demise of many fine agencies is wrong! I compare this to "large box retailers" and super-mall developers slowly wiping out "mom and pop" stores and causing the decay in many downtown and community environments.

The wealth of knowledge and experience that we were able to tap into and the direct care we received from Thursday's Child might become unavailable to future families looking to grow through adoption. Small agencies with years of experience throughout the world must be allowed to remain in faithful service to all of us. Please review the proposed regulations and make necessary changes that will preserve small agencies, jobs, and personal loving care available to all.

Thank you for considering the needs of families everywhere.

Sincerely,



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